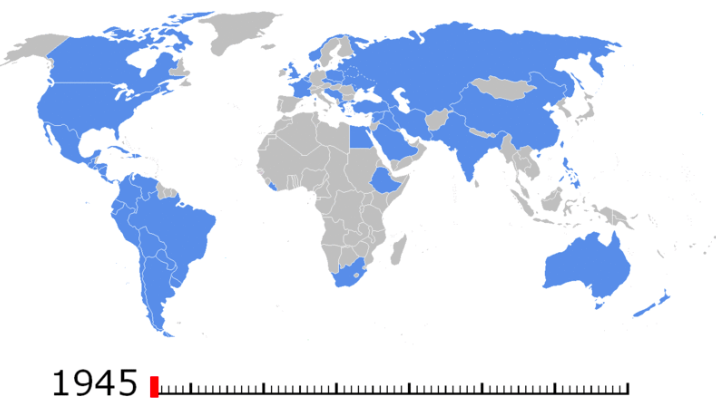
**How a Country Becomes a Country**

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| **Important Terms** | * **Colony/Colonies:** area controlled by another country. *For example, the Dominican Republic was a colony of Spain. The United States was a colony of the United Kingdom.* * **Independence:** Being independent; being free to make your own choices * **Founding:** there at the start |

**Examine the map to the right, this shows the member states of the UN in 1945.**

When world leaders met in San Francisco in 1945 to write the **UN Charter**, there were 50 countries in the world. These 50 countries signed the **UN Charter** and became **member states** of the United Nations. They were the founding members of the UN.

In 1945, there were many places in the world that wanted **independence** but were **colonies**. To help these countries become independent, a **UN agency** that created. This agency was called Trusteeship Council. The goal of this agency was to help countries that were **colonies** become **independent** countries.

Over the last 70 years, many colonies have become independent countries. These countries are **member states** of the UN. They are called member states because they are “members of the UN” and they are states. When talking about global issues, “states” is a synonymy for countries.

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| **Member States** |
| A country that is a full participant in the United Nations and respected as a country by all other countries in the world. |

To become a **member state**, the UN **Security Council** must vote to accept the country into the UN. In 2015, there are 193 countries that are member states of the UN.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Comprehension Check**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How many countries were founding members of the UN in 1945? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many countries are members of the UN in 2015? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Which part of the UN decides if a country can be a member state?
   1. The General Assembly
   2. The Trusteeship Council
   3. The Secretary General
   4. The Security Council

**How South Sudan Became A Member State**

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| **Important Terms** | * **Crops:** Fruits and vegetables that people farm * **Rural:** farming area, no cities * **Urban:** area where people live close together in cities * **Resources:** Things people need * **Refugees:** People who have to leave their home because they are in danger. * **Refugee camps:** Temporary (not permanent) places where refugees can live |

In 2011, the 193rd, country joined the UN. This country is called South Sudan. Read the information in the box below to learn how and why South Sudan became an **independent member state** of the UN.

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| **Majority** | **Pass/Passed** | |
| most/more than 50%. | To get the necessary number of votes for a decision to be made. *For example: a majority of votes is needed for a resolution to pass.* |

At first, Sudan was a colony of the United Kingdom. Then in 1956, it became an **independent** country and a **member** of the United Nations. However, many people in South Sudan were unhappy with this. The people of South Sudan had a different lifestyle. For example, the **majority** of the people in the South Christian, and made money by farming crops, and lived in **rural** areas. The **majority** people in the north were Muslim and made money from oil, and lived in **urban** areas. Sudan was a very poor country and there were fights over **resources** too. Between 1956 and 2011, an estimated 11.5 people died fighting. During this time, many people became **refugees**. The United Nations set up many **refugee camps** but there was still fighting. Then, in 2010, with support from other countries and the United Nations, South Sudan started the process to become independent. The United Nations helped South Sudan hold a special vote, called a **referendum**, to decide if the people wanted to be impendent country. The vote **passed** with 98% of the people of South Sudan, voting to be independent. On July 9th, 2011, the **Security Council** voted that South Sudan would be the 193rd member of the United Nations. However, becoming a **member state** did not solve all of Sudan or South Sudan’s problems. There is still fighting in the area.